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Heroes in the Global War on Terror

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*****TWO NAVY SEALS TO BE AWARDED SECOND HIGHEST MEDAL TODAY*****



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Matthew G. Axelson
Cupertino, California
Navy Cross Recipient



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Danny P. Dietz
Aurora, Colorado
Navy Cross Recipient

Navy SEALs Petty Officers Axelson and Dietz were part of a reconnaissance team sent on a mission on June 28, 2005, to find a key Taliban leader in the rough and dangerous terrain east of Asadabad, Afghanistan. Taliban sympathizers spotted the SEALs, and alerted terrorist fighters of the team's presence. A deadly firefight ensued between the four SEALs and an enemy force of at least 30 fighters. The SEALs radioed for reinforcements; however, the MH-47 Chinook helicopter that was sent in as support was shot down, killing all 16 men aboard. Both Axelson and Dietz were mortally wounded, yet they continued to fight and were able to hold their ground. Both men will be posthumously awarded the Navy Cross on Sept. 13, 2006.